

Message Text

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FOR EUR/CE

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TAGS: ENRG, OECD, ETRD, SZ

SUBJECT: SWISS REPRESENTATION AT IEA/OECD MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

REF: FLATIN/EWING TELCON MAY 7

1. AS REPORTED BERN 1901, SWISS MINISTERIAL REP AT MAY 27 IEA MEETING EXPECTED BE FEDERAL COUNCILOR ERNST BRUGGER. HE WILL ALSO ATTEND MAY 28-29 OECD MEETING. BRUGGER, WHO IS IN CHARGE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC ECONOMY, EXPECTED BE ACCOMPANIED BY AMBASSADOR PAUL JOLLES, DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF COMMERCE; AMBASSADOR PIERRE LANGUETIN, DELEGATE FOR TRADE AGREEMENTS AND KEY SWISS OFFICIAL IN BOTH IEA AND OECD; PHILIPPE LEVY, OFFICE DIRECTOR FOR OECD AFFAIRS IN DIVISION OF COMMERCE; AND JEAN ZWAHLEN, ECONOMIC AND FINANCIAL AFFAIRS, FEDERAL POLITICAL DEPARTMENT.

2. WE HAVE NO REASON TO THINK BRUGGER WILL SEEK BILATERAL MEETING WITH SECRETARY, BUT IF SUCH CONVERSATION SHOULD TAKE PLACE BRUGGER MIGHT MENTION (DEPENDING ON DEVELOPMENTS BETWEEN NOW AND MAY 27) STRONG SWISS INTEREST IN HAVING US TREASURY MAKE NEGATIVE DETERMINATION IN CURRENT COUNTERVAILING DUTY INVESTIGATION INVOLVING SWISS CHEESE.

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3. BRUGGER AND SWISS BELIEVE STRONGLY IN IEA AS MEANS WORK TOWARD INDUSTRIAL CONSUMER COUNTRY SOLIDARITY, AND FULLY RECOGNIZE IMPORTANCE OF COMMITMENTS FOR EMERGENCY SHARING, CONSERVATION, AND DEVELOPMENT OF ALTERNATE SOURCES. PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL WAS EASILY FORTHCOMING (BERN 1143) DESPITE CONCERNS OCCASIONALLY EXPRESSED RE EFFECT POSSIBLE CONFRONTATION WITH PRODUCERS WOULD HAVE ON SWISS NEUTRALITY. AS REPORTED BERN 1902, SWITZERLAND WILL BE ABLE RATIFY OECD FINANCIAL SUPPORT FUND AGREEMENT WITHOUT FURTHER PARLIAMENTARY ACTION.

4. SWISS ALSO ARE DEEPLY COMMITTED TO OECD (E.G. CHAIRMANSHIP BY JOLLES OF KEY HIGH-LEVEL EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE IN SPECIAL SESSION (XCSS). THEY ARE CONSTANTLY SEEKING WAYS IMPROVE ITS EFFECTIVENESS AND ACHIEVE MORE MEANINGFUL ECONOMIC POLICY COORDINATION AMONG INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES WITH WHICH SWISS ARE INTERDEPENDENT.

5. IN APRIL 14 SPEECH TO ANNUAL MEETING OF AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE IN SWITZERLAND (BERN A-81), BRUGGER PARTICULARLY STATED STRONG SWISS DEDICATION TO MAINTENANCE OF TRADE LIBERALIZATION; EMPHASIZED THAT IN CONDUCT OF SWISS FOREIGN TRADE POLICY, "DIFFICULTIES SHOULD NOT BE SOLVED BY RESTRICTIVE PRACTICES"; NOTED THAT "MUCH IMPORTANCE WAS ATTACHED TO EXTENSION OECD PLEDGE OF LAST MAY"; AND SAID SWITZERLAND SUPPORTS "QUICK TACKLING OF TRADE ISSUES IN NEGOTIATIONS NOW UNDER WAY WITHIN GATT."

6. EMBASSY WILL BE ALERT IN PERIOD PRIOR MAY 27 TO REPORT ANY ADDITIONS TO OR MODIFICATIONS OF FOREGOING. DOMINICK

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